

5-24-1945

In Okinawa Battle (Donovan C. Bower) 5-24-1945

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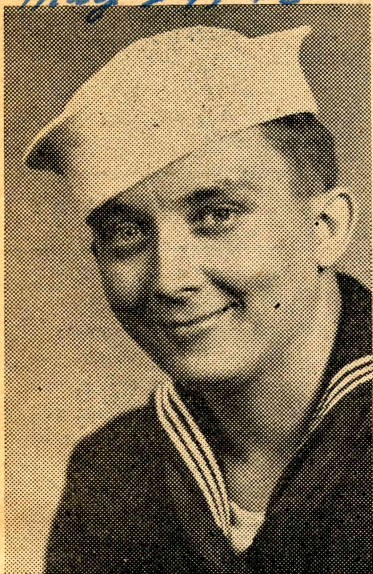
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IN OKINAWA BATTLE

May 24, '45



On Board a U. S. Battleship in the Pacific — Donovan C. Bower, yeoman, second class, Newton, Ill, didn't know when he read at Great Lakes Naval Training Center of the bombardments in the Aleutians, that the next time this ship went into action he would be aboard.

"It was no time at all after I read about the Aleutians campaign that I was carrying my gear up the gang-plank of this ship," he said recently. "I'd never even seen a ship before and I was sadly misinformed," he added.

In the year and a half he has been aboard, Bower has seen action all the way from the Gilberts to the Philippines, taking in the Marshall and the Marianas campaign on the way. During the Marshalls operation, Bowers and his shipmates stayed on their battle stations for 18 hours without relief. Coffee and sandwiches were brought up to them from the galley.

Bowers does much of his work and also sleeps and eats in the Executive office aboard this ship where he handles discharges and enlistments. Eight hours a day he stands a decoding watch and at general quarters he mans battle phones, relaying information on plane positions to the damage control office.

His wife, the former Mary K. Hancock, lives at 627 College st., Newton, Ill. and his parents, Mr and Mrs L. L. Bowers, at 431 East Morgan St., Newton. Bowers, who is 25, has a younger brother, Bobby, serving with the Army in Iran.

A furniture salesman before enlisting, he plans to start a furniture business in partnership with his brother after the war.